GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2182
ANSWERED ON:29.08.2007
DECLINING POPULATION OF COMMON SPECIES
Majhi Shri Parsuram

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether population of common species particularly sparrow is declining in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether a study has been conducted in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to save the common species?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY)

(a) & (b) The Bombay Natural History Society has reported a decline in House sparrow (Passer domesticus) population. The decline in the population of sparrows may be attributed to a number of factors including the loss of preferred habitat, loss of nesting sites in big cities, increase in the population of predators of house sparrow, food scarcity, etc. However, there is no immediate threat to its existence.

(c) & (d) Certain studies have been carried out by some research organizations and NGO's, including Bombay Natural History Society, in some parts of the country showing a decline in the house sparrow population.

(e) The steps taken to save the common species include plantation activities in urban and rural areas to improve the habitat and bringing more awareness amongst the people for conservation of birds through environmental educational programmes.